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COMEBACK KID

AFTER A THREE-YEAR HIATUS, WILL SMITH RETURNS IN MEN IN BLACK PAGE 15

WINNIPEG metro
WEEKEND, May 18-21, 2012
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Winnie Paktong, recognized as the first child born in Winnipeg to Chinese-immigrant parents and holding a photo of herself at the age of 12, turns 100 on May 30. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

She's 100 years young

Our oldest Chinese Winnipegger. Winnie Paktong was named after the city where she was born

BERNICE PONTANILLA
bernice.pontanilla@metronews.ca

Winnie Paktong is a remarkable woman who has lived a remarkable life — one that is about to reach the important milestone of 100 years.

To celebrate this achievement, Paktong's family is hosting a party this weekend at Kum Koon Garden, with family members coming in from as far away as the United States, Austria and China.

"If you look at the history of any immigrant family, the successive generations received the benefits of the hard work of the parents," said her son Alec Chan, the youngest of Paktong's five children and her main caregiver.

Paktong has been recognized as the first child born in Winnipeg of Chinese-immigrant parents. Her birthdate is May 30, 1912, and she was named Winifred in honour of the city where she was born.

She is also the oldest daughter of Joe Mar (original name: Mar Yock), who worked for many years as a chef at the Winnipeg General Hospital.

In 1936, Mar took the entire family back to China. Less than a year later, Japan invaded China and war broke out, the Mar family escaping first to Nanking, then fleeing for Hong Kong six days before the city fell to the Japanese.

The family later returned to China, where Paktong's parents and their friends found her a suitable husband, named Caven Chan, who was educated in Paris, spoke fluent French and English and taught mathematics at Ling Nan University in Nanking.

The family lived in French Indochina, now Vietnam, then returned to Hong Kong in 1953. At this point Paktong and Chan divorced, as Caven Chan wanted to return to China and Paktong wanted to come back to Canada to give her children a stable place to grow up.

"It was really nice coming back to Winnipeg," Paktong said, adding proudly that getting passports for her children was easier "because I was a Canadian."

"If it wasn't for her courage and her independence, we wouldn't have come back to Winnipeg," son Alec Chan said.

But those years were incredibly difficult. "I didn't have support. I worked and the children went to school," Paktong said, referring to the sewing factory where she earned $25 a week. "It was quite a while that I worked in the factory."

In 1969, she remarried after reconnecting with her Winnipeg childhood sweetheart, Louie Paktong. They made a "wonderful couple" until his death in 1990.

Chan said his mother continues to knit and crochet, and takes an exercise class every Thursday at her retirement home.

Paktong said she is "absolutely" looking forward to seeing her five children, 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild at the party, as well as Lt. Gov. Philip Lee.

With a twinkle in her eyes, she said she is planning to be around for her 105th birthday party.

Follow Bernice Pontanilla on Twitter @MetroBee

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Ruling. Bus beheader wins right to escorted trips

A man who beheaded and cannibalized a fellow passenger on a Greyhound bus in Manitoba has won his bid to leave the grounds of the mental hospital where he is being kept.

A Criminal Code review board has ruled that Vince Li's treatment team may grant him short escorted trips into Selkirk.

The review board says the passes will start at 30 minutes and increase incrementally to a maximum of full days.

The board also says the passes should only be granted if Li's treatment team believes his condition is stable and that it would be "appropriate and safe for him to leave the locked ward."

Li will have to be escorted at all times by a staff member and a security officer.

"It's terrible. It's disgusting," Nadine McLean, the victim's stepmother, said Thursday after she learned about the decision.

"It's kind of a waste going to the review board every year when he's going to get whatever he asks for."

The passes can be issued starting May 24.

Li was found not criminally responsible for the July 2008 death of Tim McLean, a young carnival worker who was sitting next to Li on a bus near Portage la Prairie.

Li was initially confined to a locked wing of the Selkirk Mental Health Centre, but in 2010 was given the right to escorted walks on the hospital grounds.

Li's psychiatrist says the 44-year-old has responded well to treatment and asked the review board earlier this week to let Li take trips into town.

The Crown did not oppose the idea, but the victim's mother, Carol DeDelley, said Li should never be allowed out in public.

Li's trial was told he was an untreated schizophrenic.

His first walks on the hospital's grounds were under the watchful eyes of two staff. But conditions imposed on Li are reviewed annually and, last year, the board ruled that Li could go outside with only one escort.

As part of this year's review, Li's psychiatrist, Dr. Steven Kremer, told the review board that there "is no evidence that (Li) harbours any delusional belief and ... he recognizes he has schizophrenia."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blaze. Two sent to hospital after $300,000 fire

Two women have been sent to hospital after a fire Thursday at a fourplex.

Firefighters were called to a home in the West End just after midnight Thursday morning.

The fire, which apparently started in the basement suite of the fourplex in the 800 block of Victor Street, spread to other suites as two women managed to escape.

They were taken to hospital in stable condition to be treated for smoke inhalation.

A fire on Victor Avenue sent two women to hospital. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

However, three cats and a dog had to be rescued. They are fine.

The investigation continues.

METRO

Lake Manitoba. Search widens for missing boater

RCMP have widened the search for a boater missing since Monday night.

A 22-year-old man, along with a 25-year-old man, were out on Lake Manitoba near Langruth at about 8 p.m., said Amaranth RCMP. High winds caught the pair unawares and overturned their small boat.

The 25-year-old was able to swim to shore, but the other has not been found. The 25-year-old was taken to Portage General Hospital and released.

Search and rescue personnel, including a Hercules aircraft from 17 Wing Winnipeg, were deployed to search for the man. The capsized boat was found Tuesday.

Thursday, RCMP widened the search area to a 25-mile radius on the lake and 40 miles along the shoreline. Central Plains RCMP, CASARA, Sandy Bay Dakota Ojibway Police Service, Ebb and Flow Fire Department and Sandy Bay Fire Department are aiding in the search. ELISHA DACEY/METRO

Beloved food bank closing its doors

Fellowship. Centennial institution will hold its last distribution at the end of the month

BERNICE PONTANILLA
bernice.pontanilla@metronews.ca

One of Winnipeg Harvest's most beloved and respected food banks is closing its doors after a dozen years serving some of the city's poorest citizens.

"It's been a real struggle to do what we've had to do, to close down," said Norma Jean Simmons, who runs the food bank at Wide World of Faith Church in the Centennial neighbourhood. "We've made a lot of friends and we'll miss them."

Norma Jean and her husband, church Pastor Marvin Simmons, founded the food bank now considered to be one of the best-organized in the city.

However, the couple said the amount of work that goes into making the food bank run smoothly is simply too great. Also, both are in their 70s.

"I would haul the food in here from the truck myself," said Marvin. "I've probably hauled, oh my, about a half a ton of food."

On Thursday, Wide World of Faith held its second-last food bank, the last of which will take place at the end of May.

With tears in her eyes, Norma Jean said she's saying goodbye to the food bank but hello to more church programming for children and seniors, as well as computer courses and support groups for parents.

Though the food bank is no more, the couple is not retiring from their ministry, which numbers about 100 in the congregation.

Sara Wiebe, a volunteer since the beginning, said the food bank gave her a reason to go out, keep busy and have fun.

"Knowing that I'm helping out, it's the fellowship and there's some people who've been coming for a long time, just to see them come in," she said with a smile.

Longtime food bank clients Betty and Jackie, who asked that their last names not be used, said they're very sad to see it close.

"I've been here since it opened, they're fair and they package things already; other food banks don't do that," said Betty, adding that if there's a surplus of food, the church would call large families to supplement what they received. "They go to extra trouble to do that; they don't have to."

The Wide World of Faith food bank is closing at the end of May. In the front are Sara Wiebe, Norma Jean and Marvin Simmons, with all of the volunteers behind them. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Jackie said a lot of food bank clients have become friends over the years, even with church members and volunteers.

"Love this place," said Jackie, then added about Norma Jean, "the boss lady, she's nice to us. We call her the boss lady; I got a lot of respect for that woman."

David Northcott, executive director of Winnipeg Harvest, said he's really sad to see the food bank close but understands the reasons behind it.

"The leadership is retiring after a long service of serving our poorest citizens," he said, adding that he hopes younger congregations step up to fill the void. "The question here for us is: What does the next generation look like of responders?"

Follow Bernice Pontanilla on Twitter @MetroBee

June 8 ceremony

Former mayor to get alumni award

Former Winnipeg Mayor Susan Thompson will be honoured with a Distinguished Alumni Award at a University of Winnipeg's upcoming convocation ceremony.

Thompson is best-known for her stint as Mayor of Winnipeg in the '90s, where she led Winnipeg through the Flood of the Century in 1997.

METRO

Standing hearing

One step closer to inquest

A standing hearing for those wishing to participate in the upcoming inquest into the death of 20-month-old Jaylene Redhead is set to take place this Friday.

Redhead died on June 29, 2009, while living with her mother at a Native Women's Transition Centre safe house.

Dates for the actual inquest will be set following this hearing. METRO

Volunteers sought

Fringe Festival looking for help

The Winnipeg Fringe Festival is looking for more than 800 volunteers to help out at this year's festivities.

Volunteers are needed to sell tickets, work the festival's information centre, serve the thirsty masses in the beer tent, or help little ones create works of art.

In return for their hard work volunteers get to see shows for free.

METRO

Observing session

Museum offers glasses for eclipse

The citizens of Manitoba will have a rare opportunity to see a solar eclipse on Sunday.

The Winnipeg Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada will host a public observing session of the eclipse near the baseball diamond at Assiniboine Park, and The Manitoba Museum is offering special viewing glasses to make the experience safe. METRO

1 NEWS

On the web

Zuckerberg gets the musical treatment

It seems everyone wants a little bit more Mark Zuckerberg in their lives. With re-imagined show-tune classics from Cats, West Side Story and others, a musically-inclined group has immortalized the 28-year-old Facebook founder in a short musical. Watch Zuckerberg: The Musical at metronews.ca.

Boy finds more than beef in Arby's sandwich

A Michigan teen finishing off an Arby's roast beef sandwich chomped down on something tough that tasted like rubber, so he spit it out. Turns out it was apparently the severed pad of an unfortunate employee's finger. Read more at metronews.ca.

Mobile news

Doctors in the U.S. are slowly ditching their prescription pads and pens in favour of e-prescribing. About one-third of doctors are going electronic, which the government says is safer and cheaper. Scan the code for the story.

SO LONG, BOREDOM — THE WEEKEND IS HERE

MEG IN THE CITY
Meghan Duffy
Twitter @MeghanMDuffy

Size does matter: The much-anticipated May Long Weekend has finally arrived ... All together now: Woo-hoo! Let's just hope the weather co-operates for once, however, don't hold your breath! My plan is to relax at my future parents' cabin in Lake of the Woods.

The Chilax Pub and Pool Crawl: If you do plan on staying in the 'Peg this weekend, there's lots going on for you to check out, but my best advice would be to hit up a pool, patio or park. Or, heck, if you're feeling adventurous, try all three. Just ensure you have this season's most stylish and important accessory — friends. Whether you're diving into a pool, good friends will help you chillax (a few beverages by your side won't hurt, either).

H20 LOL: If it's a few laughs you're looking for, you can also check out funny man Reese Waters who is at Rumors Restaurant and Comedy Club until May 26. Reviews for his show have been stellar, and if David Letterman and Craig Ferguson think he is show-worthy, then your admission of $15 would be moola well spent.

The Transparent Chef: If you want to contribute to a good cause, head over to Aqua Books for some real food. In honour of celebrity chef Jamie Oliver's first-ever Food Revolution Day on Saturday, the Manitoba Food Bloggers are throwing a Get Your Goodies Bake Sale, full of sweets and treats made with — get ready for it — real food. How novel. Partial proceeds will go to Oliver's initiative to get real food in schools and inspire children to eat organically. Now this is a cause I can get behind without my behind getting larger.

Great timing, Oliver

"Partial proceeds will go to Oliver's initiative to get real food in schools and inspire children to eat organically. Now this is a cause I can get behind without my behind getting larger. But one question, Jamie: You're cute and all, but did Food Revolution Day have to be on May Long Weekend?"

50 Shades of Rinna: If you just want to curl up with a nice book and be quiet all weekend, I suggest you pick up a copy of soap star Lisa Rinna's The Big Fun Sexy Sex Book (co-authored by Dr. Ian Kerner). The former Dancing With the Stars contestant — who wants to be the new Dr. Ruth (only taller) — says sex shouldn't be taboo, and with the success of Fifty Shades of Grey, Rinna hopes sex won't be so taboo anymore down south. "Canada gets it, and so does Europe. I have no idea why America is so repressed sexually," she states. "Sex is so good and it's so important to a lasting relationship. Get out of your own way and lose your inhibitions. Free yourself!"

Our city's media mirrors Winnipeg's weather, in that it's always changing, always growing, and never constant. This goes for me as well, as I am no longer part of the Breakfast Television morning show on City TV. I will be leaving behind a great group of friends, but I know that bigger things are just around the corner. Just like May Long Weekend!

Meghan Duffy is Metro Winnipeg's entertainment columnist. She can be reached at Meghan@blackwatchentertainment.com.

Cops looking out for drunk drivers

Bev Bragg, 69, of West St. Paul was happy to be one of the drivers pulled over by Winnipeg police officers during a demo of MPI's RoadWatch program Thursday. Bragg says she was hit by a drunk driver 15 years ago. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Sober up. MPI launches annual RoadWatch program

SHANE GIBSON
shane.gibson@metronews.ca

Manitoba Public Insurance has kicked off its RoadWatch program in an effort to curb impaired driving in Winnipeg and across the province.

The program, now in its 14th year, will see MPI pump $530,000 into increased law enforcement and a public awareness campaign starting May long weekend.

"We want to get more police officers on the streets for more roadside checks," explained MPI spokesperson Brian Smiley at a launch held just outside of Winnipeg on Hwy 59 Thursday. "On average, every 10 days someone is dying in this province because of an alcohol-related crash — we can all agree that is far too many."

The program funds police services across Manitoba including the Winnipeg Police Service, the Brandon Police Service, and the RCMP.

After the conference officers took to the highway to pull drivers over and demonstrate how the program works to media.

Bev Bragg, 69, of West St. Paul was one of the first drivers pulled over, and didn't mind taking the time out of her day at all — a drunk driver hit her 15 years ago and she fully supports the initiative.

"This is a great program and I'm happy to have to stop if it'll mean less drinking and driving," she told Metro.

Last year's RoadWatch program saw police in Manitoba screen 58,830 vehicles at 337 locations.

Sgt. Rob Riffel of the Winnipeg police says having extra officers on the streets makes all the difference. "The more chance of you getting caught impaired, the better it is for everyone," he said.

The RoadWatch program will run until early November.

Last year's bust

398

Last year, 232 impaired drivers were caught, 140 Liquor Control Act infractions were dolled out and 26 Controlled Drug Substance Act violators were caught.

Holiday

City of Winnipeg releases its Victoria Day weekend hours of operation

The City of Winnipeg released its hours of operation for city facilities and services for the Victoria Day long weekend.

There will be no residential garbage pickup on the Monday of the long weekend, with collection resuming on Tuesday. Garbage and recycling will continue as normally scheduled for multi-family apartments.

Brady Road Landfill will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the Saturday and Sunday of the long weekend, and 5:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday.

Winnipeg Transit will run on Monday but follow a Sunday schedule.

Winnipeg's public libraries will be closed on Monday and all leisure centres will also be closed Monday but have regular hours of operation on Saturday and Sunday.

All City of Winnipeg swimming pools will be closed on Monday, except Cindy Klassen Recreation Complex, which will be open from 2 to 6 p.m.

The Animal Services Agency will be closed on Monday but have regular hours of operation on Saturday and Sunday.

Cemetery grounds at Brookside, St. Vital and Transcona will be open for visitation from dawn to dusk over the holiday weekend including Monday.

Harbour View, John Blumberg, Crescent Drive, Kildonan Park and Windsor Park Golf Courses will be open on Monday. METRO

Controversy. Premier Selinger broke his 'no taxes' promise to Manitobans, taxpayers federation says

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation called out Premier Greg Selinger, saying he broke a promise about not raising taxes during his election campaign.

Standing at the Manitoba Legislative Building on Thursday for the 14th annual Gas Tax Honesty Day, Colin Craig, the Prairie Director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, said Selinger lied during his election campaign about whether or not he would raise gas taxes.

"We all know that during the election, the premier said that he was not going to increase taxes, period." said Craig.

"And low and behold — gas taxes went up just after he got elected."

Craig said Gas Tax Honesty day is usually held at one of Winnipeg's crumbling roads to symbolize that gas tax revenues are not used properly, but he decided to hold it at the legislative building this year, to remind Manitobans that Greg Selinger did not live up to his campaign promises.

"We are trying to remind him of that broken promise already just a few months into his new term, while also educating Manitobans about how much they are paying at the pump."

Craig said the average price at the pump in the last year was $1.19 a litre, but too much of that went directly to the government.

Colin Craig stands at the legislative building on Gas Tax Honesty Day.
DAVE BAXTER/FOR METRO

"Of that, about 25 per cent was tax, so it is a huge amount that people are paying in tax when they fill up."

In the Manitoba Legislature, Premier Selinger said that Manitoba continues to have one of the lowest gas taxes in the country.

"We have the second-lowest gas tax in the country," said Selinger. "We spend two dollars for every dollar we raise in gas tax. This contrasts quite dramatically with when gas tax was raised in the nineties by the official opposition. They only spent 25 cents of every dollar they raised on roads.

"We're doing double what we raise in the gas tax and maintaining the second-lowest gas tax in the country."

DAVE BAXTER/FOR METRO

Forest fires. Province issues travel warnings as blazes continue to burn

Shifting winds, high temperatures and low humidity continue to challenge firefighters as they fight forest fires in Southeastern Manitoba, and weather changes could result in moderate to heavy smoke in some areas.

On Thursday, the province warned that anyone living, working, camping or travelling in these areas is advised to use extreme caution.

A fire near the community of Badger is about 53 square kilometres in size, and efforts to keep the town safe have so far been successful.

Municipal fire crews from eastern Manitoba continue to work on a large fire of approximately 41 sq. km in the RM of Stuartburn. This fire is located south of PTH 201.

Firefighters continue to work to put out a fire south of Marchand. No structures are threatened at this time.

All burning permits already issued have been cancelled and new burning permits will not be issued. Campfires, including those in provincial parks, will only be allowed from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. in approved fire pits only.

Visit gov.mb.ca/wildfire for more information. METRO

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Dance. Order of the Buffalo Hunt for Sagkeeng's Finest

Sagkeeng's Finest can add another accomplishment to their growing list: Manitoba's Order of the Buffalo Hunt.

Premier Greg Selinger awarded each member of the dance troupe — composed of Vince O'Laney and brothers Dallas and Brandon Courchene — with a framed certificate and a sculpture of a buffalo. They are believed to be the youngest members ever inducted into the Order.

Each also signed the book of previous inductees, which includes Mother Teresa and South Africa's Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

O'Laney and the Courchenes were crowned winners this past Monday on the television show Canada's Got Talent, where their fusion of jigging, clogging and tap dancing outshone the competition.

"Vince, Dallas and Brandon have inspired Canadians young and old with their electrifying live performances that are bringing traditional dance to an entirely new audience," said Selinger during the ceremony behind the Manitoba Legislature.

In front of Premier Selinger, Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Eric Ronbinson, dozens of members of Sagkeeng First Nation and hundreds of fans, the trio performed first with the other five members that make up the Elders of the Past Memorial Dancers jigging group and then their fusion dance.

The performances were met with huge applause and cheers. People in the audience could be heard saying, "We're so proud of them. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Sagkeeng's Finest dancers — brothers Dallas and Brandon Courchene and Vince O'Laney — performed to hundreds of fans behind the Manitoba Legislature on Thursday. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Bugs. All-out assault on cankerworms and moths beginning next week

The city announced Thursday that an aggressive program will begin next week to try to rid the city of cankerworms and Gypsy moths.

City entomologist Taz Stuart said the cankerworm program will begin Monday night at 9:30 p.m., which will treat selective city boulevards using a chemical known as BTK.

Stuart said larvae are currently feeding on tree leaves, causing what is known as 'short hole damage.'

The cankerworm program will begin in Kildonan Park and move to various city locations, running five nights a week, but moving to seven if warranted.

Stuart asked residents to do their part to control the cankerworm population.

"Homeowners are responsible for control of cankerworms on their own trees," said Stuart. "We are recommending that they go out to home and garden centres for BTK.

The city will also start a Gypsy Moth Control Program, to combat a population of European Gypsy moths in the St. Vital area.

The chemical will be dropped from a low-flying airplane and there is no buffer zone for the program. The first aerial treatment will begin Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

City entomologist Taz Stuart. DAVE BAXTER/FOR METRO

Stuart updated the city's nuisance mosquito situation saying that warm weather and predicted rain could cause the city's first summer nuisance mosquitoes to appear in 7-10 days. He also asked citizens to do their part to fight mosquitoes.

"Please help fight the fight. Please dump it, drain it, fill it, cover it or treat it. The mosquitoes that develop in your back yard are the ones we can't treat." DAVE BAXTER/FOR METRO

Winnipeg fans created a "snake" made of plastic cups and passed it down the east-side stands during the second half of a CFL game between Winnipeg Blue Bombers and the Toronto Argonauts in Winnipeg, Friday, July 9, 2010. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blue Bombers to designate family, rowdy sections

Separate sections. But will they bring back the beer cup snake?

DAVE BAXTER
winnipeg@metronews.ca

When the Blue Bombers open Investors Group Field in September, they will have a plan to keep the families and the rowdies separated.

Last year saw numerous complaints about unruly behaviour at games at Canad Inns stadium, specifically in section S, commonly referred to as the student section.

The Winnipeg Blue Bombers announced that sections 116-121 will be designated as "Family Zones" at the new stadium. The club also announced that section 118 in the new facility will be a no-alcohol zone.

In a press release, the team said they would like games at the new field to be comfortable for young fans and families.

"We feel Blue Bomber fans have different wants and desires and our goal is to cater to as many different groups as possible," said Bomber CEO Garth Buchko.

Children 15 and under with a guardian will receive discounted ticket prices in the family zone.

The Bombers also announced that they will have sections to cater to those who like to get a bit rowdy at games.

"We also soon plan to introduce sections of Investors Group Field that will cater to a noisier-type atmosphere, we feel it is very important to offer both sides of the spectrum," said Buchko.

A Thursday morning assault was ruled a homicide after the victim's death. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Man dead after West End assault

A man is dead after he was assaulted in the West End on Thursday morning.

Police said they were called to a back alley on Sargent Avenue near Sherbrook Street at about 12:20 a.m. There, they found a man in critical condition after he had been seriously assaulted.

He was taken to hospital where he later died from his injuries.

CBC Manitoba identified the victim as Clarence Ross, 30. He apparently was not married and had no children.

A neighbour who lives in the apartment on Sherbrook Street directly behind the back lane where the victim was found told Metro he wasn't at all surprised to hear of the homicide so close to his home.

"We always hear all sorts of things around here — there's always something going on," said the man, who's lived in the area for three years and declined to give his name. "It's just the streets, the streets are going crazy."

Police have not said if a weapon was used. A man and a woman were arrested later on Thursday with charges pending.

This is Winnipeg's 15th homicide of 2012.

ELISHA DACEY/METRO
WITH FILES FROM SHANE GIBSON

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Robert Kennedy Jr.

Estranged Kennedy wife killed self

The Kennedy family was grieving again Thursday after the estranged wife of Robert Kennedy Jr. hanged herself at her home.

Mary Richardson Kennedy, 52, an architect known for her philanthropic and environmental work, who also faced drug and alcohol charges in recent years, was found dead Wednesday.

The Westchester County medical examiner's office said after an autopsy Thursday that Kennedy died of asphyxiation due to hanging. A person familiar with the investigation into her death said authorities concluded that her death was a suicide. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mary Richardson Kennedy
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iran nuclear talks

U.S. prepared to attack Iran if necessary

The U.S. has plans in place to attack Iran if necessary to prevent it from developing nuclear weapons, Washington's envoy to Israel said, days ahead of a crucial round of nuclear talks with Tehran.

Dan Shapiro's message resonated Thursday beyond the closed forum in which it was made: Iran should not test Washington's resolve to act on its promise to strike if diplomacy and sanctions fail to pressure Tehran to abandon its disputed nuclear program. Shapiro said the U.S. hopes it will not have to resort to military force. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Google Maps

Iran looking to sue Google

Iran says it will sue Google over dropping the name of the Persian Gulf on Google Maps.

The threat comes after Google left the body of water between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula nameless. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quebec leaders debate crucial emergency bill

Student protest. New legislation condemned by student leaders as politicians seek to curb violent demonstrations

Emergency legislation aimed at stamping out a turbulent student crisis in Quebec contains provisions for heavy fines for students and their federations.

An individual faces fines of between $1,000 and $5,000 for preventing someone from entering an educational institution.

The penalties climb to between $7,000 and $35,000 for a student leader and to between $25,000 and $125,000 for unions or student federations.

In all cases, the fines will double for repeat offenders.

Bill 78 also lays out strict regulations governing student demonstrations, including giving eight hours notice for protest itineraries.

As details of the legislation emerged Thursday night, demonstrators took to the streets of Montreal for their daily protest against the Charest government's plan to hike tuition fees.

Some protesters tried to block access to both ends of a tunnel on a busy thoroughfare, forcing authorities to order them back onto a nearby street.

If passed on Friday, the Charest government's law would also pause the current academic session for striking students and have it resume in August.

Premier Jean Charest is hoping the measures restore order after three months of student walkouts and demonstrations that have turned increasingly violent.

"We hold the conviction that this decision is important — not only for our young people, but for the future of the Quebec people," he told the legislature earlier on Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"This decision is important — not only for our young people, but for the future of Quebec people."

Quebec Premier Jean Charest

Lithuanians rally in the rain

Protesters rally outside the Presidential Palace in Vilnius after riot police helped a mother regain custody of her 8-year-old daughter. The protesters tried to prevent the police from carrying out a 5-month-old court order saying the mother should regain custody of her daughter. Many Lithuanians in the southern town of Garliava violently opposed the order because they allege the girl's mother, Laimute Stankunaite, is part of a pedophile ring. LIUSJENAS KULBIS /THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Windsor. Diamond swallower still in custody

Police in Windsor, Ont., say the story of a man who allegedly swallowed a $20,000 diamond is gaining international attention.

It's been nearly a week since Richard Mackenzie Matthews, 52, is alleged to have switched a diamond at Precision Jewellers and swallowed the real one.

Matthews has been held at police headquarters while they wait for the 1.7-carat stone to pass through his system. Sgt. Brett Corey says Matthews has gone to the washroom numerous times, but the diamond hasn't passed.

Corey says a recent X-ray showed a pair of fake diamonds, or cubic zirconiums, stuck in the man's intestines but because a diamond is translucent, it isn't visible. He says the suspect is eager to get the ordeal over with and is co-operating. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Miss Universe. Transgender contestant makes history

Jenna Talackova has become the first-ever transgendered contestant to compete at the Miss Universe Canada pageant.

The Vancouver beauty, who was born a man but underwent sex-change surgery four years ago, is among 62 contenders vying for the crown.

It all started Thursday night with a swimwear and evening gown contest in front of a panel of 15 judges and a live audience in downtown Toronto.

The panel includes designers Colin McAllister and Justin Ryan of HGTV's Home Heist, The Kennedys actress Kristin Booth and singer Kreesha Turner.

The Miss Universe Canada winner will be crowned Saturday.

Talackova has drawn the bulk of media attention so far, attracting an entourage of reporters and photographers at various public events in recent days.

She's taken the scrutiny in stride, even lobbing a jab at pageant owner Donald Trump when asked how she feels about his involvement.

"Well, he has great pageant hair already," she quipped during a visit to a Toronto school earlier this week.

Miss Universe Canada 2011 is Chelsae Durocher of Tecumseh, Ont. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nine arrested in Montreal police anti-corruption haul

Construction magnate Paolo Catania THE CANADIAN PRESS

Montreal's "right-hand man" had handcuffs slapped on Thursday.

Frank Zampino, the powerful former number two to Montreal's mayor, was among nine people arrested and charged in a major police anti-corruption haul.

Those arrested included municipal officials and construction-industry players in connection with a massive alleged fraud in a public contract worth more than $300 million.

The suspected scheme was relatively simple: municipal officials are accused of slipping privileged information, like technical specifications, to a construction company competing for a public contract, in exchange for financial benefit.

Those accused of leaking the details were well-rewarded, according to police: "We're talking about monetary advantages and gifts," said provincial police Insp. Denis Morin.

The raft of arrests is among the biggest against alleged corruption in a province that has been awash in scandals for several years.

The string of scandals began about four years ago, with reports about activities at Montreal's city hall, and it has culminated in a provincial corruption inquiry set to start next week.

Wearing a hoodie and sunglasses, Zampino was brought out of his house in cuffs this morning and taken into police custody. Prominent construction magnate Paolo Catania was detained at Montreal's Trudeau airport.

Zampino was the chair of the city's executive committee — essentially the head of the local equivalent of a cabinet. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Arrests

- The province's police anti-corruption unit had its first major bust last month, arresting 14 people including construction bigwig Tony Accurso.
- It also detained politically connected players in an alleged scheme involving kickbacks and bribes in exchange for advantages in the awarding of public-works contracts.

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North Korea finally gets a real voice

Escape from tyranny. The few who have managed to get out of dictatorship are working hard to tell what it's like inside

Quote

"You have to be cruel to survive. If you report a fellow inmate to the guards, you get his food ration. And because you're always hungry, of course you do."

Shin In Geun
Former North Korean prisoner

Shin In Geun was born in a North Korean prison camp. Song Byeok served the regime as a propaganda artist. Both have fled — and are exposing North Korea's regime.

"We were beaten whenever the guards felt like it," Shin tells Metro. "I saw people beaten to death, starving to death and publicly executed."

Shin's torso is covered with scars from torture. His ankles bear scars from having been hung upside down. Part of his right middle finger is missing: prison guards cut it off as punishment.

"In the prison camp you can't trust anyone," he explains. "You have to be cruel to survive. If you report a fellow inmate to the guards, you get his food. And because you're always starved, of course you do."

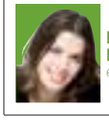
Shin even saw his mother and brother executed after they tried to escape. He had denounced them.

Shin, now 29, is the only person born in a North Korean prison camp known to have escaped. Now he lives in California and South Korea, and is determined to tell the world about the immense cruelty of North Korea's Kim regime. "I don't know whether speaking out will change anything," he says. "But I can't do nothing."

His life has been chronicled in a new book Escape From Camp 14.

Song Byeok was one of the brutal regime's propaganda artists. "I didn't know the truth about North Korea being a closed society," he tells Metro. "I respected and admired the political leaders." But when mass starvation hit the country, Song discovered the true face of the regime.

"My father and I had to go to China to get rice because my family didn't have any food. My father drowned



ELISABETH BRAW
elisabeth.braw@metro.lu

Once a North Korean propagandist, Song Byeock now uses his art to educate people about North Korea. CONTRIBUTED

Family business

Regime still in firm control

How has North Korea changed since the death of Kim Jong Il?
Kim Jong Un isn't relaxing control of society, but he's more accessible than his father was. He even gave a speech recently, while his father almost never spoke in public. In his speech, he highlighted the need for peace, but also said that national prestige was more important. And he promised that the regime would never again ask North Koreans to tighten their belts. The question is how he'll deliver on that promise. He has also been much more aggressive towards the South.

Is there any evidence that support of the regime is changing?
The only people who have access to information from the outside are the children of the elite in Pyongyang, who have things like DVDs from South Korea and can see that life is better there. And among this group there's a realization that business engagement with the outside world is necessary. But, unless the regime collapses, there's not going to be a mass exodus to the South.

DR. JOHN SWENSON-WRIGHT
Asia expert, Chatham House

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Cross-border shopping's cost misunderstood?

Duty. Economist believes as much as 10% of transportable goods are bought Stateside

Cross-border shopping is costing the Canadian economy much more than believed and new rules raising duty-free limits will only make matters worse, says a new report by the Bank of Montreal.

The assessment of costs comes from the bank's deputy chief economist, Doug Porter, in his latest price-gap comparison between consumer goods in Canada and the United States.

Porter said Thursday that although the price gap has narrowed to 14 per cent on average from the 20 per cent he found in last spring's survey, the cross-border shopping phenomenon appears to be intensifying.

"There are already more than 50 million visits to the U.S. by Canadian residents annually ... (and) those numbers are poised to swell when Ottawa increases the duty- and tax-free limits on June 1," he said.

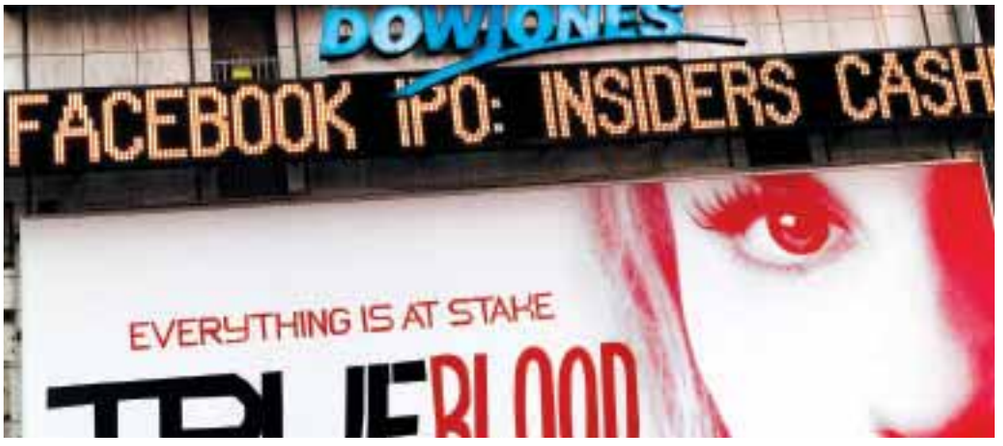
As part of March's budget, next month will see the duty-free limit on stays longer than 24 hours rise to $200 from $50, while the limit on stays longer than 48 hours rises to $800 from the current two-tiered levels of $400 and $750, depending on the length of stay.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada-U.S. price gap

The new survey of consumer goods by the Bank of Montreal suggests the gap has narrowed, in part because this week the Canadian dollar has been trading slightly below par, while during last spring's survey the loonie was worth $1.02 US.

- Magazines were on average 17 per cent more expensive in Canada and running shoes as much as 37 per cent more.



Keeping an eye on the IPO

The news ticker in New York's Times Square carries a headline about Facebook's initial public offering (IPO). Facebook priced its IPO at $38 per share on Thursday, which values the company at around $104 billion, slightly more than Amazon.com, and well above well-known corporations such as Disney and Kraft. Facebook's stock is expected to begin trading on the Nasdaq Stock Market sometime Friday morning. MARK LENNIHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Recycling

Save your butts, new program urges

Instead of tossing cigarette butts into landfills, a new recycling program will see the pervasive litter turned into something useful: industrial pallets and charitable donations.

"It's revolutionary," TerraCycle's communications manager Denise Barnard said about their new program. "It's the first in Canada."

The program will compost the organic parts, which include the paper and remaining tobacco. The rest will be recycled into pallets and other items for industrial use. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 98.13¢ (-0.62¢)

Natural gas: $2.594 US (-2.4¢)
Dow Jones: 12,442.49 (-156.06)

TSX 11,330.68 (+4.6)

OIL $92.56 US (-25¢)

GOLD $1,574.90 US (+$38.30)

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TIME MAGAZINE MILKS IT FOR ALL IT'S WORTH

THE LIST
Paul Sullivan
Metro

It's time once again for the Metro List, the world's most reliable chronicle of the week's events. If it's not on the list, it hasn't happened.

1 **The day the disco died.** Donna Summer succumbs to cancer at 63. She worked hard for the money. Maybe too hard.

2 **Time Magazine gross-out.** This week's cover finds the line and stomps all over it. A three-year-old kid stands feeding at his mom's breast while they both look at the camera. Most of us have to live down cute naked baby pictures, but this kid? Cue the life-long therapy.

3 **Gay-positive president.** Barack Obama endorses gay marriage, which proves he's a liberal. Just see him try to deny it. Now that we've got that out of the way, he can finally go back to bailing out the Good Ship USA, which is almost underwater.

4 **Pepsi Challenge.** Pepsi is desperately clinging to the ledge, so it's reviving the Pepsi Challenge. My brown sugary fizzy water tastes better than your brown sugary fizzy water. And your point is?

5 **No bad jobs.** Announcing that there's no such thing as a bad job, federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty has his let-them-eat-cake moment. Tell that to a guy who spent nine years in med school while squeezing the mop into the bucket. Better yet, give the bucket and the mop to Jim Flaherty.

6 **Greece vs. the students of Quebec.** Entitlement smackdown. You really can have it all, but only if someone else is willing to foot the bill. Evidence to the contrary, Greeks and students continue to believe in the sugar daddy.

7 **Ode to Rebekah Brooks.** Rupert Murdoch's former attack editor is charged with conspiracy to obstruct justice in the U.K. phone-hacking scandal. After years of ruining peoples' lives by exposing them to yellow journalism, she's getting a taste of her own medicine: the reporters are now hiding in her bushes. In the immortal words of Bob Dylan: How does it feel? How does it feel? To be on your own? Like a complete unknown?

8 **According to Forbes.** Jennifer Lopez is the world's most influential celebrity. You've come a long way from the block, Jenny. But, at 42, your bootylicious days are numbered, bolstered only by Botox. Maybe you could get a talk show, like No. 2 Oprah, whose influence is waning on her OWN. Of course, you're going to have to learn to speak in full sentences for that.

Cue the therapy for the kid star of Time's controversial cover. TIME/AP

Haircut to Buddhism

ERANGA JAYAWARDENA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Becoming a monk

Economy holds tradition back

Sri Lankan Buddhist monks prepare to shave the head of 12-year-old Pasindu, before ordaining him as a monk at a temple in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on Thursday.

Buddhism is Sri Lanka's state religion, but the age-old tradition of youngsters being ordained is on the decline largely due to economic reasons.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pasindu carries a robe as he is ordained as a Buddhist monk on Thursday.
ERANGA JAYAWARDENA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

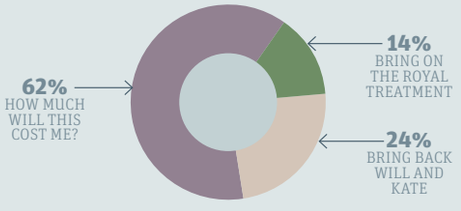
Earlier this week

- His Holiness the Dalai Lama received the 2012 Templeton Prize, the international award that honours people who "affirm life's spiritual dimension" from the John Templeton Foundation on Monday.
- On Sunday, it was reported the Dalai Lama alleged Chinese agents trained Tibetan women to assassinate him by planting poison in their hair for him to touch during blessings.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

What do you think about Charles and Camilla's planned trip to Canada?



Twitter

@DylanSMacKay: Time for a nickname change to "Summerpeg" #winnipeg

@amandachea: Glad I went home at lunch and changed, sitting outside for artand I'm still hot ugh damn.

@DalsNWonderland: Watched the season finally of vamp diaries last night.... Retained none of it #Rum

@thenamescaillie: My mother called me and woke me up from my nap to urgently talk me through 70 photos of her weekend in Spain.

@shaw_jason: I would argue that driving down Broadway in #Winnipeg is more dangerous than texting. #lovesummer #TYC tonight.

metro
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Rihanna proves she should stick to singing in Battleship. HANDOUT

Reel Guys sink Battleship

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Shock and awful.

Vapid action movie proves board games should remain a cottage pastime

Richard: Mark, what's next, Jenga: This Time It's Personal? I wasn't sure how they could possibly turn a board game into a movie, and now that I've seen it I'm convinced that it can't be done — very well, at least. Two-plus hours of soulless claptrap and joyless cacophony of twisted metal, AC/DC songs and angry aliens does not a movie make. I'd like to suggest a new title, Shock and Awful.

Mark: Finally, a film for people who found Battle for Los Angeles too full of plot and character development. Rarely have I sat through such a numbing experience of every one of my senses. But if it's senseless action you're into, let me recommend you come to the movie 27 minutes late. All you'll miss is the idiotic backstory, moronic dialogue and cretinous acting that gets in the way of things that go boom.

RC: Couldn't agree more, although I think if you are going to see this movie, go for the whole thing. That way by the time the movie gets to the attack, you'll are so tired of the Hopper Brothers (Kitsch and Alexander Skarsgård), the stoic admiral (Liam "Paycheque" Neeson) and his daughter Sam (Brooklyn Decker) that you'll pray the aliens (big lizard-eyed creatures in Iron Man drag) will make short work of the bunch of them so you can leave the theatre and do something productive with your time. It'll give you a sense of purpose, which otherwise this movie doesn't have.

MB: And what is Liam Neeson doing in this movie? He has 18 bad lines and he delivers them with the enthusiasm of a man covering his gambling debts. Note to Liam: any time a movie is produced by Hasbro, it may not be a career move, sir. And I found it sadly funny that the point of the movie, which is to extol the virtues of the navy, is undercut by the ending which needs to bring in the Air Force to finish the job. Probably accurate, though.

RC: None of the actors shine. Taylor Kitsch blands it up and Rihanna continues the grand tradition of singers-turned-actors who should stick to music.

MB: The movie is one long action sequence, and the scenes are competently shot. But without characters to care about, and some level of professional dialogue, it was just Transformers meets Waterworld, and that's a combination that's — forgive me, Richard — all wet.

Synopsis

Based on the Hasbro board game Battleship, the movie begins when scientists discover a nearby planet with an atmosphere similar to Earth. When they make contact, instead of a 'hi-how-are-ya,' they are greeted with a full-on alien invasion. The only person standing between them is Lieutenant Alex Hopper (Taylor Kitsch), an undisciplined officer unwillingly thrust into power.

- Richard:
- Mark:

2

SCENE

Scene in brief

Taylor Swift puts money to music

Taylor Swift has taught a generation of kids to appreciate country music over the last five years. Now, she's donating $4 million to the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum to make sure that education continues. The gift is the largest given to the museum by an artist and is the second largest from an individual, officials said. It will fund the Taylor Swift Education Center, an exhibit and classroom space scheduled to open in 2014. "In terms of what it will allow us to do, we do education very well now," museum director Kyle Young said. "It will allow us to do what we do better, serve more people, develop new programs."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

CSI creator Zuiker turns to cybercrime, shooting online film in Hamilton

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Edwin Boyd: When art imitates life

Method acting. Kevin Durand talks about the distant relationship with his co-star and fictional partner in crime

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Kevin Durand left, says that he and co-star Scott Speedman had a relationship similar to their characters. HANDOUT

On the set of Edwin Boyd: Citizen Gangster art imitated life.

The story of legendary Canadian bank robbers Edwin Boyd and Lenny Jackson is ripe with daring stick-ups, jailbreaks and gunfights, but despite a criminal partnership that made both men household names they weren't close.

"On a personal level I don't think there was a whole lot of love there," says Kevin Durand, who plays Jackson in the film.

"They dealt with things in a different way. Lenny and Edwin had very different ways of approaching their job."

Durand and co-star Scott Speedman, who plays Boyd, manifested that aloofness to create their characters on the Sault Ste. Marie set.

"We definitely had respect for one another and we liked each other but we didn't go out of our way to hang out together," Durand says.

"It was interesting in the way it panned out because I ended up spending a lot of time with Val and Wille, (Joseph Cross and Brendan Fletcher). Those were my guys and we literally became the gang. It was incredible because we were holed up in the north, in the cold, in our little hotel rooms and we became this little tribe of ... I want to say thieves but we didn't go thieving, but it felt very real."

The story may have come to life for Durand on set, but he was unaware of the Boyd Gang's exploits before he read the script. "I was really taken aback at how famous they were to another generation," he says. "My Uncle Tom filled me in at a discussion at a family dinner. He knew all about it and was really excited about me playing Lenny."

His uncle vividly remembered the gang's early fifties heyday. "My uncle said, 'My God, we were so terrified. I remember hiding in my bedroom hoping that the Boyd Gang wasn't going to come in my window and rob me and kill me.'"

Lenny and Edwin may have been bad guys, but that's not exactly how Durand sees them.

"The thing about these guys, like most bad guys, is that they are human and they are a product of their environment and their time," he says. "You see them in the movie with their loved ones and you see the poetry of their lives."

How you can freeze yourself like Han Solo

Stuck on Star Wars. Get your own carbonite figurine during your Florida vacation this summer

MICHELLE CASTILLO
Metro World News

Have you ever imagined what it would be like to be encased in carbonite just like Han Solo? Here's your chance. Disney's Hollywood Studios is offering fans the opportunity with the Carbon-Freeze Me promotion at their Orlando, Fla., location during their Star Wars weekends. Here's the lowdown on the experience.

It's painless: Although you have to enter a Carbon-Freezing Chamber, you won't have to worry about pain. Several cameras capture multiple angles of your face, which then is transferred to a computer. The computer helps make a 3D model of your face, which is then put on the figurine.

You won't have to wait around: The figurines will be sent to your home in about four weeks, so if you don't live around the area, you won't have to be around to pick it up. However, for now, they're only offering the experience from May 18 until June 16, so book your slot before you go by calling 407-WDW-TECH (407-939-8324).

It won't set you back that much: Each carbonite figurine is $99.95 plus shipping, with additional copies available for purchase for $74.95 each. But, think of the bragging rights you'll have when your friends walk into your home and see your carbonite figurine mounted on the wall.

It's an excuse to go to Walt Disney World: You'll need a ticket to get into the park to participate in the Carbon-Freeze Me project. Think of it as a ready-made excuse to go to Disney World without having to bribe a kid to convince your family to go.

Comedy

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

Director. John Madden

Stars. Judi Dench, Bill Nighy, Dev Patel, Maggie Smith

Madden's elegant comedy is of the charming, gentle sort, following a handful of seniors that heads off to a tony hotel for the "Elderly & Beautiful" in India. Tony it's not, but there are life lessons to be had, fresh starts and sexual rebirths amidst the lively sensuality of India. Plucky pensioners face down mortality with humour, compassion and a vow to live life better lives minus hokey feel good artifice. The top drawer cast does the bittersweet subject matter justice.

ANNE BRODIE

Comedy

What to Expect when you're Expecting

Director. Kirk Jones

Stars. Cameron Diaz, Jennifer Lopez

The problem with big ensemble comedies that weave five stories within its frame is that no single tale ever gets involved enough for true engagement. In What to Expect, this quintuplet of couples struggle through all the clichéd contrivances of childbirth – minus single parenthood that is. As such, the frothy comedy placates to the played-out parental mindset with predictable reassurance making this one baby without any real teeth.

STEVE GOW

Quoted

"I took the time, with each scene, to work with the actors, giving them notes...When the camera was rolling, I was talking constantly. I never shut my mouth. It was pretty annoying to hear that in the editing and probably also for the actors."

Quebec filmmaker Xavier Dolan on executive producing, directing, screenwriting, editing and even costume designing for his new film, Laurence Anyways
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Will Smith is back in his role as Agent J in Men in Black 3 HANDOUT

Men in Black the perfect comeback for Smith

Three-year hiatus. A-list actor took some advice from fellow stars and returned in a familiar, kid-friendly role to conquer the world again

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

It's been nearly four years since Will Smith has had a movie out — his last being the weepy dud Seven Pounds — so you'll understand if he wanted to ease his way back into things with something a bit familiar.

"I haven't worked in three years, so I wanted to put on some shoes that I knew fit," Smith says.

Hence Men in Black 3, re-teaming Smith with Tommy Lee Jones as the black-suited, Ray-Bans-donning men of mystery keeping Earth safe from aliens its citizens aren't even aware of. This time, they toss in the element of time travel, with Josh Brolin stepping in as a younger version of Tommy Lee Jones. But era-jumping aside, it's still very much a Men in Black film, which is just what Smith wanted.

"It was very important for me, having been away that long, to come back in a way that I was comfortable and to come back with a project that was kid-friendly," Smith says.

"That was something Eddie Murphy said to me a few years ago. He said, 'Man, if you're lucky enough to be in this business, every 20 years you have to go back and get the kids.'

"I like the idea of maturing and then go back and drop something. What's great for me is the target audience is in my house." That wasn't the only piece of wisdom from his elders Smith has held on to, as it turns out. "I was in Australia in 1990 with Sly Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Bruce Willis and they were opening Planet Hollywood," Smith remembers.

"I go sit there with those guys, and Arnold says, 'Young man, I want you to know that you cannot be a movie star only in the United States. You're only a movie star if they know you around the world.' They put that idea into my mind and then from that point that's when I started to make it a point to open in new markets. We went into Russia with I, Robot. We went into Brazil.

"It used to be a time where you could just have hit movies in the U.S., but that's not the case. So, to me it's just about taking those laps around the world to maintain that."

So with that kind of global stardom in mind, does that mean Smith will be continue easing his way back into acting, possibly with a visit to another hit franchise like Bad Boys?

Co-star Martin Lawrence has certainly expressed interest. Smith, however, is not so sure. "I love making those movies. It's Miami, the tight T-shirt and fast cars," he says.

"But just at this point in my career, the material has to be right. I'm 43. I'm looking at maybe seven more years where I can run and jump, and then I'm going butt and gut for the rest of my career."

Quoted

"I go and sit with those guys and Arnold (Schwarzenegger) says 'Young man, I want you to know that you can't be a movie star only in the United States. You're only a movie star if they know you around the world.'"

Actor Will Smith

Tommy Lee Jones. Star talks about hitting props and boring press junkets

While Men in Black 3 star Tommy Lee Jones certainly isn't known for being terribly talkative, we did manage to get the Oscar-winner to open up on a few topics — including his relationship with Will Smith.

Tommy Lee Jones HANDOUT

How does the whole press junket process feel from your perspective?
It's essentially boring, but you find a way to enjoy it. You answer the same questions over and over and over again, all day long. And some of the questions are, frankly, uninteresting, but we're not here to entertain me. Please don't feel any pressure.

What makes a project worth doing for you?
There's several ways to define that. One is a good script, it has a good director, there are appealing actors attached to it, it's a good business deal or it's in a location that my wife and daughter would want to visit. All of those things are factors.

Will Smith describes chemistry with other actors as like playing tennis. Do you have your own sports metaphor for acting?
No. I don't have a metaphor. I don't even use the word chemistry. You relate as well as you can to other people, and you try to create circumstances in which your character relates appropriately to theirs. I've a good relationship with Will. He's a terrific guy to work with, and he's excellent company.

There was a lot of talk about this film going into production while the script was still being worked out. How does that affect the filmmaking process?
Not greatly. A day of work is a day of work. Of course, it's more helpful if a script is complete. It's easier to determine what place and scene plays in the overall narrative. Obviously, that's always helpful.

We spoke with Rick Baker, who mentioned that often they have to make more than one of your props, as they tend to fall apart in your hands, is this true?
Oh. Barry Sonnenfeld (Men in Black 3 director) likes to make jokes about me breaking props all the time. I don't know what Rick has to do with props.

Rick also mentioned the little robot you used to beat up Wu in the restaurant scene.....
Oh, yeah. That thing may have gotten broken a time or two because it was used as a weapon to beat Wu up. So that's kind of hard on a puppet (laughs).

NED EHRBAR/METRO WORLD NEWS

"LOTS OF LAUGHS, HEART AND A TERRIFIC ENSEMBLE OF ACTORS AT THEIR BEST.
'WHAT TO EXPECT' TOTALLY DELIVERS!"
PETE HAMMOND, BOXOFFICE MAGAZINE
WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING
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THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., MAY 18 TO THURS., MAY 24 TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

Winnipeg

Johnny Depp plays a vampire in Tim Burton's Dark Shadows. HANDOUT

Cinema City McGillivray
2190 McGillivray Blvd., 204-269-9981

Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D (G) Fri-Mon 12:55-3:10-5:20-7:35-9:45 Tue-Thu 3-5:20-7:35-10
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D (PG) Fri-Mon 12:30-2:55-7:40 Tue-Thu 2:55-7:20
Lockout (14A) Fri-Mon 1:40-4:20-7-9:40 Tue-Thu 1:50-4:20-7-9:45
Mirror Mirror (G) Fri-Mon 12:40-3:05-5:30-8-10:25 Tue-Thu 2:05-4:30-6:55-9:20
Safe House (14A) Fri-Mon 12:25-3:10-5:35-8:05-10:35 Tue-Thu 2:30-5-7:25-9:50
This Means War (PG) Fri-Mon 12:45-3-5:25-7:45-10:05 Tue-Thu 2:25-4:55-7:15-9:40
The Three Stooges (PG) Fri-Mon 12:20-2:40-5-7:15-9:35 Tue-Thu 2:20-4:35-6:50-9:10
The Vow (STC) Fri-Mon 12:15-2:30-4:50-7:10-9:45 Tue-Thu 2:35-4:50-7:10-9:35
Wrath of the Titans 3D (14A) Fri-Mon 5:15-10 Tue-Thu 5:10-9:40

Cinema City Northgate
1399 McPhillips Street, 204-334-6234

Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) Fri 6:30-9 Sat-Mon 1:30-4-6:30-9 Tue-Thu 4:50-7:30
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) Sat-Mon 1:40-4:30 Tue-Thu 5:30
Lockout (14A) Fri 7:20-9:50 Sat-Mon 1:50-4:50-7:20-9:50 Tue-Thu 5-8:30
Mirror Mirror (G) Fri 6:50-9:20 Sat-Mon 1-4:10-6:50-9:20 Tue-Thu 5:20-7:50
The Raid: Redemption (18A) Fri 7:30-9:50 Sat-Mon 1:10-3:40-7:30-9:50 Tue-Thu 5:10-8
Taur Mittran Di (STC) Fri 8 Sat-Mon 12:50-3:50-8 Tue-Thu 4:40-7:40
The Three Stooges (PG) Fri 7-9:40 Sat-Mon 1:20-4:20-7-9:40 Tue-Thu 5:40-8:10
The Vow (STC) Fri-Mon 6:40-9:10 Tue-Thu 8:10
Wrath of the Titans (14A) Fri 7:10-9:30 Sat-Mon 2-4:40-7:10-9:30 Tue-Thu 5:50-8:20

Cinematheque
304-100 Arthur, 204-925-3457

No Films Showing Today (STC) Mon-Wed
Surviving Progress (STC) Fri-Sat 9 Sun 7 Thu 9
City Cinema - Northgate
1399 McPhillips, 204-334-6234
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) Fri 6:30-9 Sat-Mon 1:30-4-6:30-9 Tue-Thu 4:50-7:30
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) Sat-Mon 1:40-4:30
Lockout (14A) Fri 7:20-9:50 Sat-Mon 1:50-4:50-7:20-9:50 Tue-Thu 5-8:30
Mirror Mirror (G) Fri 6:50-9:20 Sat-Mon 1-4:10-6:50-9:20 Tue-Thu 5:20-7:50
The Raid: Redemption (18A) Fri 7:30-9:50 Sat-Mon 1:10-3:40-7:30-9:50 Tue-Thu 5:10-8
Taur Mittran Di (STC) Fri 8 Sat-Mon 12:50-3:50-8 Tue-Thu 4:40-7:40
The Three Stooges (PG) Fri 7-9:40 Sat-Mon 1:20-4:20-7-9:40 Tue-Thu 5:40-8:10
The Vow (STC) Fri-Mon 6:40-9:10 Tue-Thu 8:10
Wrath of the Titans (14A) Fri 7:10-9:30 Sat-Mon 2-4:40-7:10-9:30 Tue-Thu 5:50-8:20

Famous Players Kildonan Place
1555 Regent Ave W, 204-663-2166

Battleship (PG) No Passes Fri 7-10:10 No Passes Sat-Mon 12:30-3:50-7-10:10 No Passes Tue-Thu 5:20-8:40
Dark Shadows (14A) Fri 6:40-9:20 Sat-Mon 1:10-4-6:40-9:20 Tue-Thu 5:50-8:30
The Dictator (14A) No Passes Fri 7:20-9:40 No Passes Sat-Mon 12:40-2:50-5-7:20-9:40 No Passes Tue-Thu 5:50-8
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri 6:20-6:50-9:30-10 Sat-Mon 12:40-3-3:40-6:20-6:50-9:30-10 Tue-Thu 5:10-5:40-8:20-8:50
The Pirates! Band of Misfits (G) Sat-Mon 12:50
What to Expect When You're Expecting (PG) Fri 6:30-9:30 Sat-Mon 12:20-3:10-6:30-9:30 Tue-Thu 5:30-8:10

Grant Park 8 Cinemas
1120 Grant Ave., 204-453-4084

The Avengers (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 3:40-6:35-9:35 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Mon 12:35-3:40-6:35-9:35 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 3:40-6:35-9:35
The Avengers Marathon 3D (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 3:30-6:40-9:55 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Mon 12:15-3:30-6:40-9:55 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 3:30-6:40-9:55
Battleship (PG) Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 3:55-7:10:10 Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat-Mon 12:55-3:55-7-10:10 Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 3:55-7-10:10
The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, Digital Fri 4:05-7:10-10 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, Digital Sat-Mon 12:45-4:05-7:10-10 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, Digital Tue-Thu 4:05-7:10-10
Dark Shadows (14A) Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4:15-7:15-9:55 Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Mon 1-4:15-7:15-9:55 Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 4:15-7:15-9:55
The Dictator (14A) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 3:50-6:55-9:50 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Mon 12:30-3:50-6:55-9:50 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 3:50-6:55-9:50
The Five-Year Engagement (14A) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 3:35-6:30-9:30 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Mon 12:20-3:35-6:30-9:30 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 3:35-6:30-9:30
What to Expect When You're Expecting (PG) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4:10-6:50-9:40 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Mon 12:50-4:10-6:50-9:40 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 4:10-6:50-9:40

IMAX Theatre at Portage Place
Y003-393 Portage Avenue, 204-956-4629

The Alps (STC) Wed 10
Bears (STC) Fri 10:30 Wed 12:15
Born to Be Wild 3D (G) Wed 1:30
Coral Reef Adventure (STC) Fri 11:30
Egypt 3D: Secrets of the Mummies (STC) Tue 12
The Human Body (STC) Thu 11
No Films Showing Today (STC) Sun-Mon
Pulse: A Stomp Odyssey (STC) Tue 11
Space Station (STC) Sat 1
To the Arctic 3D (STC) Fri 12:45-2:15-5:30 Sat 12-5:45-7:15 Tue 10 Wed 11:15 Thu 12:15
Tornado Alley 3D (G) Tue 1:15
Wrath of the Titans: An IMAX 3D Experience (14A) Fri 6:45-9 Sat 2:15-8:30

Landmark Globe Cinema
393 Portage Ave, 204-943-1583
The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (PG) Fri 7-9:45 Sat-Mon 1-3:45-7-9:45 Tue-Thu 7-9:45
A Little Bit Zombie (14A) Fri 7:15-9:30 Sat-Mon 1:15-3:30-7:15-9:30 Tue-Thu 7:15-9:30
Salmon Fishing in the Yemen (PG) Fri 7:10-9:40 Sat-Mon 1:10-3:40-7:10-9:40 Tue-Thu 7:10-9:40

Landmark Towne Cinema 8
301 Notre Dame Avenue, 204-947-2848
Battleship (PG) Fri 7-10 Sat-Mon 12:45-3:45-7-10 Tue-Thu 7-10
Dark Shadows (14A) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Mon 1:15-4-7-9:30 Tue-Thu 7-9:30
The Dictator (14A) Fri 7:15-9:15 Sat-Mon 1:30-3:45-7:15-9:15 Tue-Thu 7:15-9:15
The Lucky One (PG) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Mon 1:15-4-7-9:20 Tue-Thu 7-9:20
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri 7-10 Sat-Mon 12:45-3:45-7-10 Tue-Thu 7-10
Marvel's the Avengers 3D (PG) Fri 6:45-9:45 Sat-Mon 12:30-3:30-6:45-9:45 Tue-Thu 6:45-9:45
The Pirates! Band of Misfits (G) Sat-Mon 4
The Pirates! Band of Misfits 3D (G) Fri 7:15-9:15 Sat-Mon 1:30-7:15-9:15 Tue-Thu 7:15-9:15
What to Expect When You're Expecting (PG) Fri 7:15-9:45 Sat-Mon 1-3:30-7:15-9:45 Tue-Thu 7:15-9:45

SilverCity Polo Park
815 St. James Street, 204-774-1001

21 Jump Street (14A) Fri-Sat 7:25-10:05 Sun 10:15 Mon-Tue 7:25-10:05 Wed 10:20 Thu 7:25-10:05
Barrymore (STC) Wed 7
Battleship (PG) No Passes Fri 1-1:40-4:05-4:45-7:10-7:50-10:20-10:55 No Passes Sat 10:40-1-1:40-4:05-4:45-7:10-7:50-10:20-10:55 No Passes Sun 1-1:40-4:05-4:45-7:10-7:50-10:45-10:55 No Passes Mon 1-1:40-4:05-4:45-7:10-7:50-10:20-10:55 No Passes Tue 12:45-1:15-3:55-4:25-7:30-10:10-10:40 No Passes Wed 12:45-1:15-3:55-4:25-7:20-7:30-10:10-10:40 No Passes Thu 12:45-1:15-3:45-4:25-7:10-7:30-10:10-10:40
The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (PG) Fri-Tue 1:10-4:05-7-9:55 Wed 4:05-7:25-9:55 Thu 1:10-4:05-7-9:55 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Chernobyl Diaries (14A) Thu 10
Dark Shadows (14A) Fri-Mon 11:50-2:30-5:20-8:05-10:55 Tue-Thu 2:20-5-7:40-10:20
Dark Shadows: The IMAX Experience (14A) Fri-Thu 2-10:30
The Dictator (14A) No Passes Fri-Mon 11:45-1:55-4:10-6:25-8:45-11 No Passes Tue-Thu 1:40-3:55-6:10-8:30-10:45
The Five-Year Engagement (14A) Fri 11-1:45-4:35-7:35-10:35 Sat 4:35-7:35-10:35 Sun-Mon 11-1:45-4:35-7:35-10:35 Tue 1:40-4:35-7:35-10:35 Wed 1:40-4:35-10:35 Thu 12:45-3:45-6:40
Götterdämmerung: Met Opera Ring Cycle Encore (STC) Sat 10
The Hunger Games (14A) Fri-Wed 12:45-4-7:20-10:40 Thu 12:45-4-10:40
Jonah: A VeggieTales Movie (STC) Sat 11
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri-Mon 11:30-2:50-6:10-9:30 Tue-Thu 12:05-3:20-6:40-10
Marvel's the Avengers 3D (PG) Fri-Mon 12:30-3:50-7:10-10:30 Tue-Thu 1:35-4:50-8:10 Fri 12-1-3:20-4:20-6:40-7:40-10-11 Sat 10-12-1-3:20-4:20-6:40-7:40-10-11 Sun-Mon 12-1-3:20-4:20-6:40-7:40-10-11 Tue-Thu 12:30-2-3:50-5:20-7:10-8:40-10:30
Marvel's the Avengers: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Mon 11-4:30-7:30 Tue-Thu 4:30-7:30
The Pirates! Band of Misfits (G) Fri 12:25-2:45-5:10 Sat 10:15-12:25-2:45-5:10 Sun 12:25-2:40-4:55 Mon-Thu 12:25-2:45-5:10
What to Expect When You're Expecting (PG) Fri 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:45 Sat 10:20-12-2:40-5:20-8-10:45 Sun-Mon 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:45 Tue 12:05-2:40-5:20-8-10:45 Wed 4:20-7:10-9:50 Thu 12:05-2:40-5:20-8-10:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
WWE Over The Limit - 2012 (STC) Sun 7
Yellow Submarine (STC) Thu 7

SilverCity St. Vital
110-1225 St Mary's Rd, 204-256-3901

Barrymore (STC) Wed 7
Battleship (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:35-4:35-7:35-10:40 No Passes Mon 1:35-4:45-7:35-10:40 No Passes Tue-Thu 1:35-4:25-7:20-10:20 No Passes Fri-Thu 12:55-3:55-7:05-10:10
Dark Shadows (14A) Fri-Sat 11:45-2:25-5:05-7:45-10:30 Sun-Thu 2:25-5:05-7:45-10:30
The Dictator (14A) No Passes Fri-Wed 1-3:20-5:40-8-10:20 No Passes Thu 1:50-4-6:10-8:25-10:30
The Hunger Games (14A) Fri-Tue 12:35-3:55-7:15-10:30 Wed 12:35-3:55-10:30 Thu 12:35-3:55-7:15-10:30
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri-Mon 12:15-3:35-6:55-10:15 Tue-Thu 12:30-3:35-6:55-10:15
Marvel's the Avengers 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 11:45-12:45-3:10-4:05-6:25-7:25-9:45-10:45 Mon 11:45-3:10-4:05-6:25-7:25-9:45-10:45 Tue-Wed 12:55-3:10-4:05-6:25-7:20-9:45-10:25 Thu 3:10-6:25-9:45
The Pirates! Band of Misfits (G) Fri-Tue 12:30-2:45-5:10 Wed 12:30-2:35-4:50 Thu 12:30-2:45-5:10
Think Like a Man (PG) Fri-Tue 7:25-10:15 Wed 10:15 Thu 7:25-10:15
What to Expect When You're Expecting (PG) Fri-Sat 11:45-2:25-5:05-7:45-10:30 Sun 2:25-5:05-7:45-10:30 Mon 11:45-2:25-5:05-7:45 Tue-Thu 2:25-5:05-7:45-10:30

THE WEALTHY BARBER

David Chilton is the latest powerhouse to join CBC's Dragon's Den
The seventh season of the show airs this fall on CBC Wednesdays and Sundays

ENTER A NEW DRAGON

KATE WEBB
scene@metronews.ca

Bestselling personal finance author David Chilton is the newest member of CBC's hit series Dragon's Den, which just wrapped shooting its seventh season.

Metro sat down with him this week in Vancouver to talk about life on the show and his timeless tips for financial success. His 1989 book, The Wealthy Barber, is Canada's all-time bestseller, having sold more than two million copies. This interview was edited and condensed for space.

How was your first season with the Dragons? I don't have any negative comments. Everybody wants me to say, 'This went wrong,' or 'this wasn't something to my liking,' but it wasn't that way at all. The Dragons were great to deal with, the behind-the-scenes staff was a lot of fun and it was an all-positive experience.

The claws come out

"It's amazing how passionate you get, and how competitive you get in that environment."
David Chilton

Did you butt heads with any of them? Yes, and you know what's really interesting? I got in a fairly significant argument during my second pitch, with both Kevin (O'Leary) and Arlene (Dickinson), and it's not like me. I'm a very low-key guy. I'm not a conflict-oriented guy. It's amazing how passionate you get, and how competitive you get in that environment.

What was the argument about? I was mad at Kevin for the way he was treating someone. That must come as a shock. And I'm not sure why I got mad at Arlene. The funny thing is, she was right in the argument. I went home that night and I was thinking it through and I thought, 'Oh, she was definitely right there,' but at the time of course I didn't concede that. It was only later when I realized I was in the wrong.

What kind of products or enterprises are you most likely to invest in? I think I gravitated more toward the people than the product. I went for some low-tech ideas. I'm not very knowledgeable in the digital space, and I certainly can't compete with (Internet mogul) Bruce Croxon, so if there's a great idea, they're going to gravitate to him and he's going to gravitate to them, so I went for a lot of low-tech ideas. I'm more about the person.

What does "pay yourself first" mean? Well you know, it's funny. It's still the key to personal financial planning. You have to save. We all have to spend less than we make. But if you leave yourself to your own vices or even budgeting it doesn't work. Take (10 per cent) off the top of the paycheque or directly out of the bank account before you have an opportunity to spend it, and then you have to live off the rest. You don't have to budget by doing that, the money's already gone, and if you sit down with 1,000 people who have come from modest income backgrounds and today they're financially successful, you'll find that's the most commonly seen denominator.

David Chilton is a bestselling author, investor and TV personality. CBC HANDOUT

CBC's Rick Mercer says he prefers ordinary Canadians to politicians

Power to the people.
The Rick Mercer Report turns 10 —and the host says it's more and more about having fun with regular folks

KATE WEBB
scene@metronews.ca

Gone are the days when Rick Mercer convinced high-profile politicians to submit to his quirky shtick. He says politicians are too boring and too scripted.

"I got naked with Bob Rae, and I went shopping for plastic with Paul Martin, and Gordon Campbell I had on the show many times before when he was premier, but we've moved away from that format a little bit," he said earlier this week during a junket in Vancouver introducing CBC's condensed fall-winter season.

These days the famous comedian and political satirist is much more interested in talking to ordinary Canadians.

Rick Mercer comes to SFU to announce the winner of the Spread the Net student challenge in 2010. METRO/SFU VIA FLICKR

"I think we're going to stay with the same mission, which is every week getting out to a different part of the country and exploring it and showing it off to the rest of the country and having fun," he said of his decade-old Rick Mercer Report.

He seeks out the disenfranchised, the far-flung, even children, as he recently demonstrated with touching segments on Spread the Net, a competition between Canadian schools raising money to buy mosquito nets for malaria-prone regions of the world.

The Rick Mercer Report returns to CBC for its 10th season Tuesdays at 8 p.m. in September.

CBC funding cuts

Get ready for ads on CBC radio

The CBC is still ironing out how to deal with the 10 per cent funding cut delivered in the federal budget in March.

The result was 650 jobs lost, including 475 this year. And, starting soon, CBC Radio will no longer be ad-free.

The public broadcaster is delivering four new shows this fall, but repeating many shows in prime time to fill the gaps left by 175 hours of original programming that won't be renewed.

As an independent producer contracted by the CBC, Mercer admitted he's biased, but said all entertainment aside, he still considers the CBC one of the best news organizations in the world.

"I think beating up the CBC is something that certain segments of society like to do, or certain interest groups like to do, and they never really tell the story," he said. "I mean, the CBC has a full, Canadian prime-time schedule, and you can't compare them to networks that don't have a single thing in prime time that's Canadian. You just can't. It's apples and oranges."

Quoted

"I think beating up the CBC is something that certain segments of society like to do, or certain interest groups like to do, and they never really tell the story."
Rick Mercer

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Russell Brand

Brand opens up about ex-wife Katy Perry

When it comes to Russell Brand's marriage to Katy Perry — which he ended suddenly after 14 months — there are no hard feelings, at least as far as Brand is concerned. "I was very happy to be married with her. She's such a beautiful human being and I just have only love and positivity for her," Brand tells Ellen DeGeneres in an interview. "But, sometimes when you're in a relationship I suppose it doesn't work out, does it? But that doesn't mean I regret it or anything."

Quoted

"She's such a beautiful human being and I just have only love and positivity for her."

Russell Brand

Jennifer Lopez ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Jennifer Lopez says goodbye to American Idol

Jennifer Lopez is stepping down as a judge on American Idol, leaving the reality show that helped revitalize her career, according to E! News. "There is just too much going on for her right now," a source says of the singer, who is embarking on a summer tour that conflicts with the show's taping schedule. Lopez is also working on a new album and has more film projects on the horizon. "She regrets she can't stay on the show," the source adds.

Travolta fiasco continues to unfold

The first unidentified man to accuse John Travolta of sexual assault — who parted ways with his lawyer after his case seemed to unravel — has hired Gloria Allred as his new attorney, according to People magazine. "I represent John Doe Number One," Gloria Allred tells the magazine. "Mr. Doe's lawsuit was dismissed without prejudice which means that he is still legally entitled to file another lawsuit against John Travolta if he chooses. We are in the process of conferring with him regarding the next steps, which he may wish to take."

The Word

Channing Tatum takes it off again

THE WORD
Monica Weymouth
scene@metronews.ca

Before his impossibly square jaw and superhero-grade shoulders were landing him movie roles, Channing Tatum was a stripper — not that he's shy about it. His new film, Magic Mike, is loosely based on his former gig, and he wants everyone to see it, not just those who would have killed to play his little spoon in The Vow.

"With Joe Manganiello naked in a movie, I think even straight guys are going to be, 'S—t, I need to see that,'" the actor tells OUT's June/July issue of his costar. "That man is a specimen." (Go ahead — this one is worth the Google break.)

But while he's never tried to hide the fact that he was an exotic dancer, Tatum admits he prefers his new job to stripteasing. "You are on a stage with people yelling at you, and you feel you're a rock star, but you're nothing — you're just a guy taking off his clothes, looking like a fool in a stupid outfit."

We would point out that he essentially did the same exact thing in "Dear John," but there was than scene where he squinted in a field for awhile.

KATHERINE HEIGL
ONE FOR THE MONEY
LA PRIME
AVAILABLE IN STORES MAY 15
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Can you top this?

As pancake toppings go, maple syrup is swell and certainly traditional, if not particularly inspired. This long weekend, take time out to add new life to your pancakes with these creative alternatives.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Apples

1. Sauté apple slices with butter and sugar, then spoon them over the pancakes. Sprinkle with toasted pecans, then drizzle with dulce de leche. **(FROM DAISY MARTINEZ, AUTHOR OF DAISY: MORNING, NOON AND NIGHT)**

2. Simmer chunks of peeled apple in brandy until very tender, then spoon over the pancakes. Top with sour cream or creme fraiche spiked with ground cardamom, nutmeg or cinnamon. **(FROM SARA KATE GILLINGHAM-RYAN, FOUNDING EDITOR OF THE WEBSITE APARTMENT THERAPY: THE KITCHN)**

Bananas

1. Make banana syrup by slicing and microwaving an overripe (black) banana until very soft and syrupy. Spoon over pancakes with a dollop of Greek-style yogurt, toasted pecans and a dash of cinnamon. **(FROM LOURDES CASTRO, AUTHOR OF SIMPLY MEXICAN)**

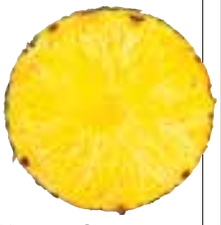
2. Sauté sliced bananas in butter with a sprinkle of brown sugar. Cook until the bananas are lightly caramelized. **(FROM DORIE GREENSPAN, AUTHOR OF AROUND MY FRENCH TABLE)**

Blueberries

1. Heat lemon curd, then drizzle it over pancakes and sprinkle with fresh blueberries. **(FROM KAREN DEMASCO, PASTRY CHEF AT LOCANDA VERDE RESTAURANT IN NEW YORK)**

2. As soon as you pour the pancake batter into the pan, top it with granola and fresh blueberries, then continue cooking as normal. **(FROM BARB STUCKEY, AUTHOR OF TASTE WHAT YOU'RE MISSING)**

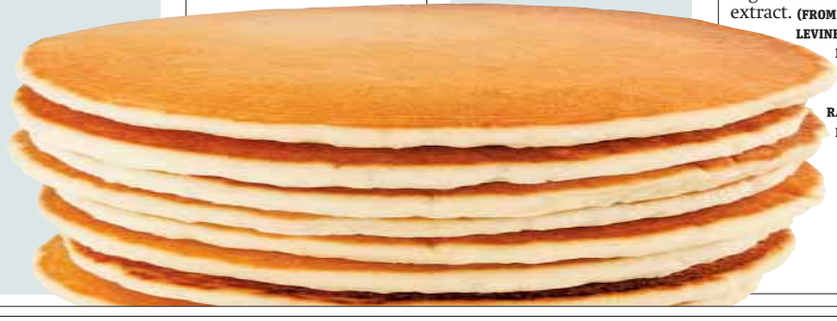
3. Warm fresh blueberries or blackberries in several tablespoons of fruit syrup (such as passion fruit). Season with pinches of ground cardamom, then mix in a small handful of fresh mint leaves. **(FROM LISA YOCKELSON, AUTHOR OF BAKING STYLE: ART, CRAFT, RECIPES)**



Pineapple

1. Sauté fresh pineapple cubes in brown sugar, then deglaze the pan with a bit of coconut milk and reduce until it has a syrup-like consistency. Pour over the pancakes and top with whipped cream and toasted coconut flakes. **(FROM ROGER STETTLER, EXECUTIVE CHEF FOR THE FOUR SEASONS RESORT MAUI)**

2. Sauté sliced pears and pineapple chunks until soft. Add a squeeze or two of lemon juice, some sugar and vanilla extract. **(FROM SARABETH LEVINE OF SARABETH'S KITCHEN RESTAURANTS IN NEW YORK)**



Liquid Assets

Marry Spanish wines & BBQ

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
peterrockwell@eastlink.ca

How old do I have to be before I can feel comfortable hiring someone to mow my lawn without thinking I've got one foot in the grave?

While many of you will be opening your cottages or spending Victoria Day chilling out, I'll be performing my yearly ritual of trying to get my mower to start.

Thankfully, my barbecue works just fine so I can look forward to a feast of grilled goodness once my yelling in the garage subsides.

Whether it's a burger, steak, kabob or simple hunk of beef, odds are there will be a whole lot of red meat served this weekend.

Though difficult-to-pronounce names and dull labels haven't helped Spain's liquid popularity in Canada, there isn't a better red-producing nation making wine to pair with barbecued meats.

Bodegas Principe de Viana's 2008 Red Guitar Old Vine Tempranillo Garnacha ($12.99 to $14.99) combines Spain's two most popular grapes and wraps them in a modern Salvador Dali-esque package.

Ripe and balanced with a touch of rustic cherry/berry charm, this is one guitar that plays all the right chords. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

3 LIFE

Superfood

Plum perfect

Plums have been hailed as the new superfood stars, overtaking berries with their astonishing array of health benefits. They contain high levels of vitamin C, ensuring a healthy immune system and their skin is a mine of antioxidants, the molecules that can help slow down or prevent the production of free radicals. Plums are fat-free and low in calories, help to promote a healthy digestive track and the absorption of iron. Their consumption has also been liked to the lowered risk of macular degeneration, age-related vision loss.

METRO WORLD NEWS

On the web

Mario Batali and family take the food stamp challenge to protest cuts for poor Americans

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SPORTS

NHL playoffs

"I think it's everything that we were anticipating really from the hockey standpoint. We expected tight games. We expected not a lot of room out there from either team, and games down to the wire."

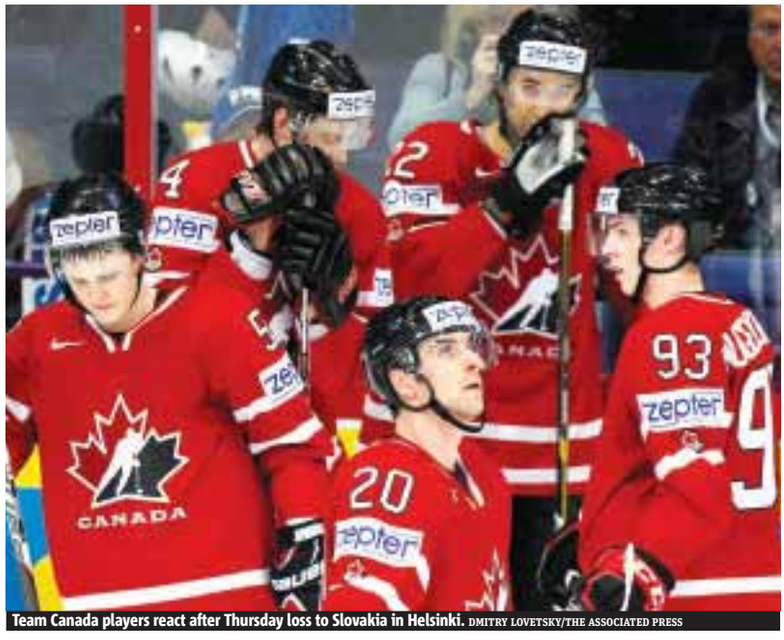
Devils captain Zach Parise on his team's Eastern Conference final series with the New York Rangers. The best-of-seven, knotted at 1-1, moves to the Prudential Center in New Jersey for Game 3 on Saturday afternoon and Game 4 on Monday night.

Mobile news

There's no doubt Los Angeles faces an uphill battle after dropping Games 1 and 2 to the Thunder, but Kobe Bryant says his Lakers "found some things out" during the losses in Oklahoma City that will help them get back into the series at Staples Center. Scan the code for the story.

No happy ending for Canada in Helsinki

IIHF. Sloppy stretch of play costs Canada a medal at hockey worlds



Team Canada players react after Thursday loss to Slovakia in Helsinki. DMITRY LOVETSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seven error-filled minutes.

That's what cost Canada a shot at glory in this year's IIHF world hockey championship.

But those seven minutes against Slovakia on Thursday essentially encapsulate a stretch of Canadian hockey disappointment that has followed Sidney Crosby's golden goal at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.

Two bad penalties. Key players caught out of position on a back-breaking goal. The inability to protect a lead.

These types of mistakes seem to have plagued Canadian players recently, and on Thursday, they came against a "far inferior" opponent, as general manager Kevin Lowe described Slovakia following a shocking 4-3 quarter-final loss.

"They had no business being in the game," Lowe said of the Slovaks.

Yet there they were with time ticking down. Slovakia was aware of the situation and played the role of spoiler perfectly, patiently hoping for Canada to slip up.

What happened next was nothing short of a meltdown.

First, captain Ryan Getzlaf's line with Corey Perry and Evander Kane got caught up ice when Milan Bartovic raced in and tied the game with a rebound off the rush at 13:25. Then, Ryan Nugent-Hopkins was assessed a boarding penalty. Just as Canada killed that one off, Getzlaf was given a kneeing major for an open-ice hit on Juraj Mikus at 17:28.

Four seconds later, Michal Handzus tipped home the winning goal.

"You're going with a lead in the third (period), you're up 3-2, that's got to be your bread and butter," said Canadian coach Brent Sutter. "Games are tight and you've got to be able to close the deal on them.

"We probably beat ourselves in the last seven minutes of the game with things we talked about all tournament not wanting to do."

Ultimately, that might be the most intriguing part of Canada's third straight early departure from the world championship. The team didn't encounter anything it didn't expect here. On the eve of the tournament, Lowe talked about the need to play "flawless hockey" once the door-die games start.

It never got there.

Canada's players seemed to grow together while winning six of seven round-robin games. There was every reason to believe they would rise to the occasion when it mattered most.

Instead, Canada played a tepid opening 10 minutes against Slovakia and quickly found itself down 2-0. It roared ahead during an inspired second period — Slovak captain Zdeno Chara said it was a "small wonder" his team survived it — but faded down the stretch.

And even though this was the youngest team Canada has ever sent to the world championship, it was Olympic and Stanley Cup champion Getzlaf who made the most crucial error with his kneeing major.

"It hurts like hell right now," he said. "I feel like I let the guys down. To be in a hard-fought game like that and play the tournament we did and lose in that fashion, it's not easy to swallow as a group." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"It's a sick way to lose. It sucks when you're in a hard-fought game like that and it comes down to that kind of play ... Tough pill to swallow right now."

Ryan Getzlaf, Team Canada captain.

NHL

Renney's time up in Edmonton

The Edmonton Oilers are parting ways with head coach Tom Renney after two seasons without a winning record.

The team made the announcement via Twitter on Thursday, saying Renney's contract will not be renewed.

Renney joined the team for the 2010-11 season and finished with an NHL-worst 25-45-12 record. This season the team barely improved with a 32-40-10 record for second-last overall.

"Tom's done some great things for our hockey club," general manager Steve Tambellini said in a video statement posted on the Oilers website. "But we felt at this time it was the right decision to make a change." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tom Renney GETTY IMAGES FILE

MLB

Athletics hope to stay in Bay Area

Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig says it's up to Lew Wolff to decide whether to consider additional sites for a new ballpark for the Athletics, and the Oakland owner maintains he's focused on San Jose.

Selig said Thursday there's no timetable for resolving Oakland's dispute with San Francisco. The Giants are preventing the A's from building a ballpark in San Jose, which is part of the Giants' territory. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Blue Bombers dreaming big about new stadium

When size matters.
CFL club puts move into Investors Group Field on back burner while gaining size and strength on O-line ahead of 2012 season

Blue Bombers quarterback Buck Pierce gets protection from his offensive line during the Grey Cup in Vancouver last November. JEFF VINNICK/GETTY IMAGES FILE

When and if that new Winnipeg stadium opens, hopefully the locker-room doors will be made extra high, and maybe a little wider.

It would make life easier for the Blue Bombers' offensive line, judging by the size of the recruits as the team rebuilds and plugs holes.

The size of those particular doors won't matter until late in the season, if then, as the new Investors Group Field at the University of Manitoba is months behind schedule.

Instead, home will be the crumbling but familiar Canad Inns Stadium just west of downtown, where knocking your head into a door frame might break it.

"It doesn't really matter to me, as long as there's a field somewhere for us to play," said Paul Swiston, who at six foot nine and near 340 pounds is the biggest of the prospects looking to land a job as a starter on that line.

They certainly are big. At 6-4 and 318 pounds, returning left tackle Andre Douglas is one of the small guys, probably not something he hears very often.

Swiston, out of the University of Calgary, and 2012 draft pick Tyson Pencer, at 6-8 and around 330, seem to be the shape of things to come.

"We're getting some size," said Swiston.

The next level down (but not very far) is Jordan Taorima out of Oklahoma State at 6-7 and 330, and 2011 practice-roster addition Justin Sorensen at 6-7 and 316.

Whether bigger is better remains to be seen.

Despite Winnipeg's first-place finish in the East and trip to the Grey Cup, the o-line didn't get a lot of respect for much of last season.

That was in sharp contrast to Winnipeg's defence, which helped the cause with its own "Swaggerville" marketing campaign but also had solid results to back the hype.

Bomber general manager Joe Mack traded for a first-round draft pick this year to grab Pencer, a B.C. native who played for Washington State in 2010, with hopes he might some day develop into a tackle.

When Pencer reports for camp later this month, 11 prospects are going to line up, including bankable veterans like 6-6 right tackle Glenn January, entering his sixth CFL season.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A new swagger

"I've lost a little weight and put on a little muscle ... Everybody's bigger, faster and stronger"

Paul Swiston, Blue Bombers prospect
Discussing a bigger and stronger CFL club.

Heat humbled in Indiana

Pacers forward David West knocks the ball away and fouls Miami's LeBron James during the first half of Game 3 of the Eastern Conference semifinal in Indiana on Thursday. Paul George had 20 points and Roy Hibbert added 19 as the Pacers took a 2-1 series lead with a 94-75 win. MICHAEL CONROY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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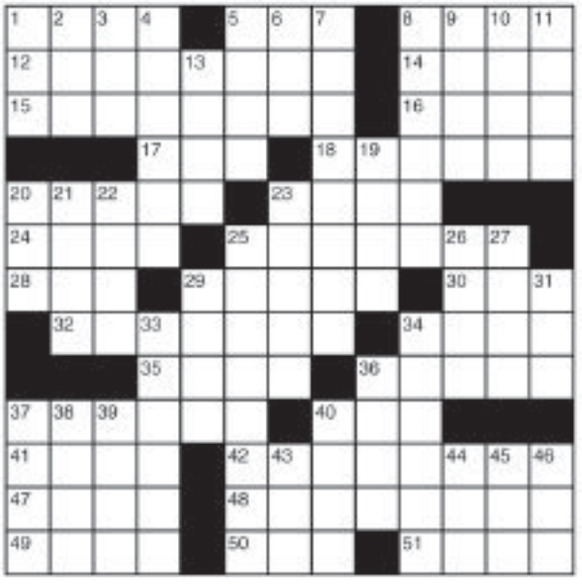
Crossword

Across

1 Milky gemstone
5 Pal in Paris
8 Radiate
12 Phone option
14 Hitchcock tour de force
15 Percussion instrument
16 Guitars' kin
17 Cattle call
18 User
20 Book of maps
23 Hi-tech journal
24 Meadows
25 Galley type
28 Omega preceder
29 Belief in natural religion
30 Mimic
32 Neptune's spear
34 A Great Lake
35 Fill till full
36 Sweater style
37 Water-carved gully
40 Journey segment
41 Apply finger paints
42 Home of the steel drum
47 Tulsa's st.
48 Recondite
49 Crystal gazer
50 Illuminated
51 Nitwit

Down

1 1-Across' mo.
2 Standard
3 "The Greatest"
4 Andean herd
5 Jason's ship
6 Wire measure
7 Imprac-tical one
8 Deep-seated ill will
9 Trickster god
10 Oil cartel
11 Into the sunset
13 Grandson of Eve
19 Campus quarters
20 Matterhorn, for one
21 Criterion
22 Den
23 Saline solution
25 Abstain from alcohol
26 Stallion's companion
27 Grand story
29 Crucial time
31 "A mouse!"
33 Weather-map line
34 Surround
36 Outlet
37 Commotions
38 Croupier's tool
39 Hold the scepter
40 Roster
43 Hitter's stat
44 Twosome
45 Cleo's slayer
46 Fourth letter



Sudoku

	2						1	
	9	1		4		8	7	
3			1		6			2
		3	8		7	9		
		5	3		4	7		
7			6		2			5
	8	6		7		1	3	
	5						6	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

6	2	3	7	5	1	8	9	4
1	5	4	8	6	9	3	7	2
9	7	8	4	3	2	1	6	5
2	8	7	5	1	4	6	3	9
4	1	9	3	2	6	5	8	7
3	6	5	9	8	7	2	4	1
5	9	1	6	7	8	4	2	3
8	4	2	1	9	3	7	5	6
7	3	6	2	4	5	9	1	8

Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play

This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

OU C BAKYBA ECGHFY OG ZRYM UYORJIPM CJI LYRLCYOFKG, O'I ACZR HF GCM AR'G C ERFEPR ECYGFJ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SOME SMALL POOCHES CARRY AROUND ELECTRICAL FITTINGS, YOU MIGHT SAY THAT PUGS LUG PLUGS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals P

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
MAX: 33° MIN: 14°	MAX: 22° MIN: 17°	MAX: 19° MIN: 5°

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"Weather impacts everything we do. Providing the information you need before you head out that door and take on the day is the best part of my morning." **WEEKDAYS 6 AM**

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. What seems like a problem now will have resolved itself by the early part of next week, so leave well alone.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. You will have to start dealing with the consequences of your actions over the past few weeks.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. Some people may complain that they've not got the breaks they deserved, but that cuts no ice with you.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. You must adopt a positive attitude over the next 24 hours.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. It may seem as if you are moving in the opposite direction to everyone else but why should that worry you?

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. You don't usually pay attention to conspiracy theories but what happens over the next few days will make you wonder if maybe there is something going on, something you should know about.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. Check the facts today, in all situations, because it could be the case that someone is hoping to mislead you.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. You will be on the move over the next few days and there is no telling where you will end up come Monday morning!

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. Try not to take anything too seriously today. If you do you will quickly get annoyed when people you work or do business with try to undermine what you've accomplished.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. There may be all sorts of bad things going on in the world but none of them is your fault.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. Your time will come – and very soon.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. Something good will happen today, something that makes you glad to be alive. Most likely the universe is paying you back for some of the helpful things you have done for other people. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption Contest

"You take your car to work, I'll take my board"
Janelle

FELIPE DANA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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